



**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR

FORT PECK FISH HATCHERY

FORT PECK, MONTANA**

July 2000

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1.0. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Project Location.

Fort Peck Dam is located 20 miles southeast of Glasgow, Montana on Montana Highway 24; or 10 miles southwest of Nashua on Montana Highway 117. See Figure 1-1 below.

The Fort Peck Project lies in the Missouri River Valley in McCone, Valley, Garfield, Phillips, Petroleum, and Fergus Counties in northeastern Montana. The dam is approximately 1,770 river miles upstream of the mouth of the Missouri river and approximately 11 miles upstream from the mouth of the Milk river. Nearly the entire Ft. Peck project is within the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) boundaries, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

1.2. Fort Peck Project Purposes.

Construction of the Ft. Peck Dam was originally authorized by the 1935 Rivers and Harbors act. Since construction, the project has been operated under multiple authorities which allow for the project's current purposes of flood control, navigation, hydropower, wildlife, recreation, and water supply.

1.3. Current Proposal.

House Bill No. 20 of the 1999 Montana Legislature provides for the establishment of a multi-species fish hatchery. The hatchery is currently being evaluated for location at Ft. Peck, Montana. At present it would be operated by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP). The FWP has requested the Omaha District Corps of Engineers (Corps) prepare a conceptual design, environmental impact analysis, and cost estimate for this hatchery under the Corps' Planning Assistance to States Program, authorized by Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, as amended.

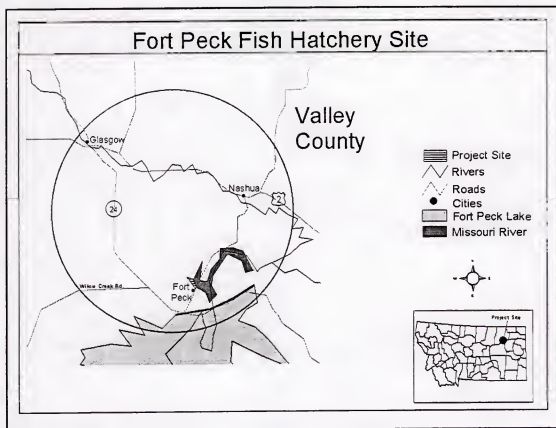
1.4. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to satisfy the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500-1508), and other appropriate environmental regulations.

CEQ regulations require the systematic examination of possible and probable environmental consequences of implementing a proposed action. The purpose of this EA is to examine the potential environmental consequences and to determine whether they are significant. Its preparation has been triggered by a potential federal lease of land for the proposed fish hatchery. Relevant documentation from Federal and State agencies involved in the preparation of this EA is included in Appendix A of this document.



Figure 1-1



1.5. Project Scoping and Coordination.

1.5.1. Public Meeting. During the scoping phase of this study a public meeting was held in Glasgow, Montana in order to solicit information, determine if any environmental controversy exists, narrow the focus of the study, and to make information available. The meeting was held on January 18, 2000 at the Cottonwood Inn in Glasgow, Montana. Representatives from Congressman Rick Hill's Office, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Walleyes Unlimited, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Glasgow Town Council were among the fifty to sixty attendees. Staff members from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Department were present to answer questions. A list of people whom signed the meeting register may be viewed in Appendix B of this report.

The majority of attendees explicitly expressed concern regarding project cost and project time frame. The meeting was dominated by the topics regarding how soon the hatchery will be operational and productive.

Numerous individuals were concerned over the dominant fish species to be reared in the hatchery. Walleye fishing is prolific in this region above most other sport fishing.



One resident of Park Grove expressed concern relating to highway integrity, particularly highway 117 and traffic flow. Environmental concerns were few. One individual expressed concerns relating to the potential impact the hatchery may have on fish-eating birds such as cormorants. Another individual inquired as to the potential threat of whirling disease and how contamination might result.

1.5.2. Agency and Public Coordination. In addition to individuals from agencies attending the public meeting, a letter describing the potential project and requesting comments was sent out to over 27 different agency addresses. Included in the mailing were tribes, federal, state, and local agencies, as well as elected officials.

Following completion of a draft EA, the draft EA was made available for public and agency review. The draft was available for review at the Glasgow City County Library as well as being distributed to 28 requesting individuals and the same agencies which received the project scoping letter. The review and comment period began May 4, 2000 and was completed June 15, 2000. One written comment letter was received as a result of the review period.

The one comment letter was from the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and resulted in the addition of a "Beneficial Impacts" discussion in Chapter 5 of the EA.

2.0. PURPOSE AND NEED.

The primary purpose of the project is the development of a multi-species fish hatchery in the Fort Peck area. Addition of this hatchery to the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' fisheries program is in response to current and future needs due to demands on Montana's fisheries resources. The hatchery could provide rearing space for salmonid fish, warm and cool water fish, and species of special concern.

Within the last 2 to 3 years there has been a shift in Montana hatchery production to accommodate native fish restoration, minimize impacts to native and species of concern, and to reintroduce species of concern into native historic range. Allocation of some hatchery rearing space has shifted away from production of fish species used in: sports fish restoration, management of recreational fisheries, sports fisheries developed by irrigation and hydroelectric projects (mitigation), and has limited hatchery space available for fish that state fisheries managers would have used for those programs. The need for the Ft. Peck hatchery is to restore rearing space that has been reallocated for other priorities and to meet the increasing demands for sport fisheries in the State of Montana.

Management of warm and cool water fish for public fisheries and for supplementation of populations has become difficult due to increased demand, finite production under current hatchery space, and limited sources of fish for management. Since supply can not meet the state management objectives, a new source (hatchery) must be developed to meet short term short falls and long term demand.



Also contributing to the need for this hatchery are the findings and recommendations of the *Fort Peck Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan*, January 1992-1997, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and the *Montana Warmwater Fisheries Management Plan*, March 1997, Montana, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. The Fort Peck Management Plan made recommendations of continued major management efforts and increased stocking of walleye based upon public input and creel surveys which demonstrate an increased demand for walleye. The Warmwater Fisheries Management Plan makes similar recommendations however, it makes note of the fact that "very limited reproduction of walleye" is occurring in the lake due to the scarcity of spawning substrate. It also recognizes an ever increasing recreational demand for walleye in Ft. Peck Lake.

3.0. ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS.

Preliminary alternatives to meet the demands for increased numbers of fish in the State of Montana included; 1) Expanding the Miles City hatchery, 2) Purchasing fish from commercial or other sources, 3) No Action, and 4) Constructing the Ft. Peck Fish Hatchery. After preliminary evaluation, one alternative remains; 4) Constructing the Ft. Peck Fish Hatchery.

3.1. Mile City Expansion.

The need for a multi-species fish hatchery in Montana has existed for several years. Prior to House Bill No. 20, in the early 80's, the Montana FWP evaluated the merits of expanding cool and warm water fish production within its only warm-water production facility, located in Miles City, Montana. Since that time, some expansion of the Miles City hatchery has occurred, however, Miles City is now believed to have fully reached its production and expansion capabilities. Currently, water supply at Miles City is limited, surrounding available land does not exist, and costs associated with upgrades of plumbing and basic production facilities would require an investment which approaches that necessary for new construction. Also complicating a Miles City expansion is the future potential encroachment of the hatchery site by the Tongue River Railroad. For these reasons, expansion at Miles City was not evaluated in detail for this study.

3.2. Purchase Fish.

Current State of Montana regulations strictly limit the "import" and release of fish within waters of Montana. These regulations, coupled with the numbers of fish needed, their likely unavailability, and cost, are reasons this alternative was not evaluated in detail for this study.

3.3. No Action.

For purposes of the Corps of Engineers, No Action would result in not leasing federal land for the construction of a fish hatchery. However, in terms of the State of

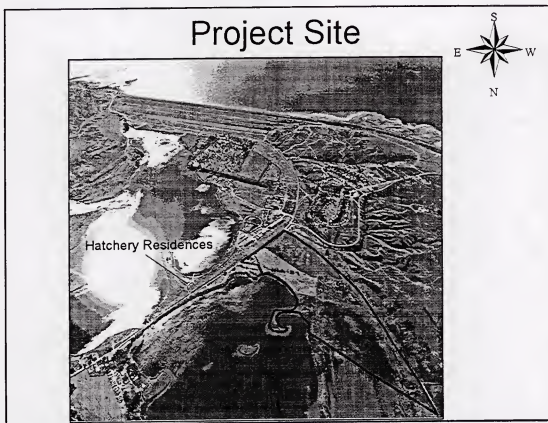


Montana, No Action would result in not constructing a fish hatchery. Since this project does not involve detailed evaluation of more than one action alternative, the No Action alternative will serve merely as a baseline for comparison of impacts to the preferred alternative, but will not be evaluated in detail.

3.4. Construct Ft. Peck Fish Hatchery.

3.4.1. General Facilities. Currently, the hatchery is proposed to be located on approximately 100 acres just northwest of the town of Fort Peck, Montana, as shown below in Figure 3-1. The hatchery site would contain approximately 54 surface acres of rearing ponds, a main hatchery building with ancillary structures, approximately 8 raceways, and 3 permanent residences.

Figure 3-1



3.4.2. Hatchery Building. The main hatchery building would include a visitors center, hatchery operations area, office space, crew bunk facilities, maintenance area, storage space, raceways, and external ancillary support structures.

The hatchery building would be located in the southeast corner of the site (see map). The production area would include a pathology laboratory for fish examination



and measurements, a feed laboratory for limited feed formulation and storage, as well as incubation and rearing areas. Crew quarters, offices, and limited visitor facilities will occupy the remainder of the floor area.

Raceways would be located immediately outside the south wall of the hatchery. Current plans would include a lean-to style roof, which would not include walls. The roof would be included primarily for protection from weather as well as to discourage predatory birds. The raceways will be constructed approximately 60 feet long, by 6 feet wide, with a water depth of 3 feet, and a total depth of 4 feet (one foot free-board).

Three permanent residences would be located off the hatchery-proper site, and just to the east approximately one-quarter mile. This location should provide ready and easy access for staff to react in emergency situations as well as providing an adequate level of privacy during non-working hours.

The rest of the site will be consumed by rearing ponds. Most rearing ponds will be one acre in size, however specialized production will require a few to be larger and some smaller. Current pond layout is based upon one, 1.7 acre pond/settling lagoon, one, 2.2 acre pond/settling lagoon, 14 one-half acre ponds, 38 one acre ponds, and 2 two acre ponds. Desired fish production numbers will be presented later. Pond construction would require both excavation and scraping of soils at depths of anywhere from a few inches to 10 feet. Typical ponds would be rectangular in shape, lined with a black, geotextile membrane with a 3 foot vertical on 1 foot horizontal side slope. Approximately every four ponds would be connected to an "outside" catch basin. Catch basins or rectangular, concrete basins which are used for draining the ponds and securing the fish.

Both effluent ponds will be constructed to capture all water used at the hatchery prior to discharge back into the Missouri River. These ponds may allow for rearing of fish, settling of suspended particles, and also for the treatment of some components of the soluble organics in the discharge stream.

3.4.3. Earth Work. Earth work associated with the project will likely include the general leveling of the site and associated utility installation. In general, the entire site will be completely altered from its existing state. All vegetation will be removed, and much of the soil will be either excavated, moved, or compacted.

3.4.4. Water Supply and Use. Water used by the hatchery will be a combination of Missouri River water and groundwater pumped from wells located just north of the residences. The anticipated well production rate is 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm), with four wells projected for construction. Either groundwater or surface water may be used in the hatchery wetlab (production area). Groundwater will also be used to temper the surface water source in order to obtain the optimum water temperature for fish production. Potable water will be provided by an existing waterline that runs adjacent to the project site. The water demand by the hatchery will vary widely according to the operating program, as well as with seasonal climatic changes, with maximum flows



typically reached in August. At that time, wellwater flows of 1500 gallons per minute (gpm) and dredge cut area flows of 5,000 gpm may be required.

Except for the relatively minor quantities of water lost to evaporation and seepage, the majority of the water directed to the hatchery will be discharged to the Missouri River following use. Water will not be discharged from the hatchery until it meets the discharge requirements established by the state of Montana.

3.4.5. Fish Production. Fish to be produced at the facility on an annual or longer basis may include walleye, sauger, tiger muskie, northern pike, channel catfish, chinook salmon, forage fish, and possibly pallid sturgeon. Forage fish could consist of fathead minnows, bluegill, crappie, rainbow trout, or other suitable forage fish. Fish will be utilized primarily to stock Fort Peck Lake, however, they will also be used for stocking throughout the State of Montana and may be provided to other states or government agencies depending upon needs and availability. Table 2.1, below, provides the current production goals.

**Table 3.1
Production Goals**

Species	Quantity	Size	Description	Harvest Date
Walleye	50,000,000	Fry	Fry	4/25
Walleye	2,500,000	2"+	Fingerlings	8/30
Sauger	2,500,000	Fry	Fry	4/25
Sauger	500,000	2"+	Fingerlings	8/30
Tiger Muskie	5,000	6"+	Fingerlings	7/15
Tiger Muskie	50,000	2"+	Fingerlings	7/1
Northern Pike	150,000	Fry	Fry	4/30
Northern Pike	10,000	2"+	Fingerlings	8/15
Channel Catfish	15,000	2"+	Fingerlings	9/30
Channel Catfish	40,000	8"+	Fingerlings	10/30
Chinook Salmon	500,000	3"+	Fingerlings	10/15
Largemouth Bass	70,000	2"+	Fingerlings	
Largemouth Bass	10,000	6"+	Fingerlings	
Smallmouth Bass	25,000	2"+	Fingerlings	
Smallmouth Bass	10,000	5"+	Fingerlings	
Pallid Sturgeon	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined



4.0. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT.

4.1. Air Quality.

Air quality in the Fort Peck area is expected to be excellent (DEQ, 2000). According to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, particulate levels near Fort Peck Dam have been measured in the past. Results indicated that no problems existed, thus eliminating the need for further monitoring. Tests for pollutants other than particulates were not conducted as there were no significant sources for other emissions in the area. No air quality permits for either construction or operation of the hatchery would be required (DEQ, 2000).

4.2. Socioeconomic.

According to the 1987 Census of Agriculture, farming was the principle occupation for 2,361 people in the six counties of Montana which have shoreline bordering Fort Peck Lake (Kasten, 2000). For the general project area, farming consists of primarily wheat and barley production, as well as livestock and poultry production.

Tourism in Valley County is under-average for the number who stay overnight and for their spending as a whole as compared to the balance of the state (Inst. for Tourism and Recreational Research, 2000). This basically shows that Valley County does not have anything major to stop visitors for very long. Consequently, visitors do not spend much money in Valley County.

Population for Valley County has been on a decline of about 20% since the 1960 census, while the rest of Montana combined has shown an approximate 15% increase (Kasten, 2000).

Primary business and population centers for Valley county are located in Glasgow (Kasten, 2000), with the Fort Peck Dam, Historic Town of Fort Peck, and Fort Peck Lake likely drawing the majority of tourism.

4.3. Climate.

Montana is situated in the heart of North America and has a continental interior climate. Western Montana is largely protected from the arctic winds by its mountains. Although the snow is deep, the prevailing Pacific weather patterns make the weather relatively mild. By contrast, eastern Montana, where the Fort Peck project is located, lies on the unprotected Great Plains of Canada and North America. The weather is typical of the Great Plains region, with hot summers and cold, dry winters. Prolonged droughts of several years' duration and frequent shorter periods of deficient moisture interspersed with periods of abundant precipitation are characteristic of the plains area (USACE, 1992).



The prevailing winds during the period from April to October are predominately west/northwesterly and east/southeasterly. Summer winds are subject to passing storm systems and fronts, making them highly variable (USACE, 1992).

4.3.1. Precipitation. The normal annual precipitation at the Forth Peck power plant weather station is 11.52 inches, with about 80 percent of it occurring during the 6-month period from April through September. Snowfall in the winter is moderate, with occasional drifting and blizzard conditions. The mean annual total snowfall is approximately 36 inches. The region typically has high evaporation rates because of the low humidity, warm summer temperatures, and moderate to strong winds (USACE, 1992).

4.4. Land Use.

Current land use in the Fort Peck area is mostly agriculture and wildlife management lands. Land use occurring at the proposed site consists of wildlife habitat, agriculture, and low intensity recreation (USACE, 1992).

4.4.1. Recreation. Use of the recreation area known as the "Goose Pond" is usually for overflow camping on busy weekends and camping by individuals who want to be alone (McMurry, 2000). Current facilities include a vault toilet and picnic shelter. There are adequate and similar facilities very near the project site at the Round House Point. The Round House Point is located on the peninsula north and east of the hatchery site on the east side of Highway 117, less than 1 mile from the hatchery site. Neither area receives intense use.

4.4.2. Agriculture. Currently, an approximate 40 acres in the southeast corner of the project site are being leased for agricultural production. The site is typically utilized for the cultivation of wheat or barley. According to the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the cultivated tract of land is classified as "Prime if Irrigated" (Van Fossen, 2000). This area is not and has not been irrigated. Accordingly, its removal from agricultural production will not require preparation of a Prime Farmland Conversion Impact Rating.

4.4.3. Wildlife. Wildlife use of the project area shall be discussed in Section 4.9. of this EA.

4.5. Roads.

Montana is served by three major interstate highways. Interstate (I) 94 is located approximately 175 miles south of Fort Peck Lake, and I-15 is located approximately 300 miles west of Fort Peck. I-90 also serves Montana. I-90 runs north into Montana from Wyoming, meets I-94 a few miles east of Billings and continues west to Idaho.

U.S. Highways 2 and 191 provide access to the north and west ends of the project. State Highway 200 provides access to the south of Fort Peck Lake, and State Highway 24



provides access around the dam site. Yellowstone Road provides access from the town of Fort Peck to the Fort Peck powerhouse.

Highway 117 runs directly along the east edge of the project site. Highway 117 would provide access to the hatchery's visitor center once the hatchery is constructed.

4.6. Geology and Soils.

Fort Peck lies within the northern Great Plains province. The smooth plains located to the north of the Missouri represent the southern most advance of the Pleistocene glaciers, while the rough and rugged landscape to the south of the river reflects its advanced state of erosion. The south side consists of steep ridges and deep coulees originating from ancient grasslands and sedimentary deposits (USACE, 1999).

Eastern Montana is underlain by a series of late Mesozoic and early Tertiary formations that are found over large areas of the Great Plains. In general, these strata dip towards the east at a low angle such that the younger formation are exposed to the east and progressively older formation are exposed to the west. Fort Peck Dam is located within the outcrop belt of the Bearpaw Shale that forms the floor of the Missouri River Valley for nearly 100 miles downstream from the dam (USACE, 2000).

The overburden underlying the site area primarily consists of sand and clay alluvium within the river valley. The overburden thickness is anywhere from greater than 100 feet to as much as 150 feet thick in the immediate area (USACE, 2000).

Bedrock at the site is composed of the Bearpaw Shale Formation of Cretaceous age. The Bearpaw Shale is a dark gray to black, clay shale of marine origin. Bearpaw Shale is exposed on the east valley wall in the vicinity of the right abutment of the dam. The Bearpaw Shale, where the surface has not been eroded, is typically 1,100 feet thick in the vicinity of Fort Peck Dam. A mantle of glacial till (approximately 100 to 150 feet thick) overlies the Bearpaw Shale to the west in the vicinity of the left abutment of the dam (USACE, 2000)

4.7. Vegetation.

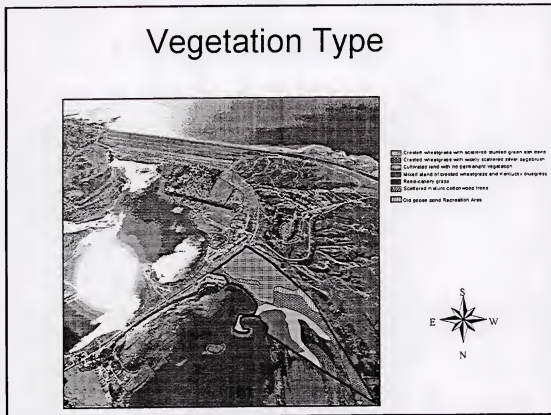
The predominate vegetation of the proposed hatchery area is crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) (Snyder, 2000). In general, co-dominants at the site include: smooth bromegrass, silver sagebrush, Kentucky bluegrass, and reed canary grass. The dominant woody plants at the site include cottonwood and green ash. The site is primarily comprised of approximately 50 acres of grassland with scattered trees. Approximately 40 acres of the site is vegetated according to the current agricultural lease which typically yields wheat, rye, and/or barley. The agricultural field is usually barren during winter months. The site vegetation has been mapped, as designated in Figure 4-1.



Other major types of vegetation surrounding the area include: (1) sagebrush-greasewood-grassland, (2) ponderosa pine-juniper, (3) grassland-deciduous shrub, and (4) riparian-deciduous river bottoms, including ash coulees (USACE, 1992).

Tree cover is variable, flourishing in such areas as protected ravines and tributary valleys where natural moisture is more available. Desirable shrubs are most common in draws and on uplands overlying fractured substrata (USACE, 1992).

Figure 4-1*



* Data presented in Figure 4-1 developed by Fort Peck project office personnel.

4.8. Wetlands.

On February 9, 2000, the project site was inspected for jurisdictional wetlands by Park Manager Darin McMurry and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) wetland delineator Steve Van Fossen. Five separate wetland areas were delineated. The largest of the four is estimated at approximately 2.6 acres, followed by acreages of 0.5, 0.4, 0.2, and 0.2 for a total of approximately 3.9 acres of wetland. Each are Palustrine systems with persistent, emergent vegetation dominated by reed canary grass with no co-dominant species identified. Their hydrology is likely that of either temporarily or seasonally flooded systems with soils exhibiting multiple redoximorphic features. Each are likely depressional areas which obtain their hydrology from snow melt, spring rains,



and surface runoff. Of 19 soil borings scattered across the proposed hatchery site, groundwater was encountered in only one. Groundwater depth within this boring is estimated at approximately 13 feet.

4.9. Fauna.

The discussion of wildlife in the following paragraphs includes wildlife known to occur within the boundaries of the Fort Peck Project. Unless otherwise noted, this data has been taken from the 1992 Fort Peck Master Plan. Because of their mobile nature, to list only the wildlife within the preferred alternative site boundaries may not be accurate.

The primary big game species in the region include mule deer and some white-tailed deer. Mule deer exceed all other ungulate wildlife in number and distribution. In the Fort Peck area, they are non-migratory, although some local movement does occur with seasonal changes in food and range use habits. The deciduous river bottoms of the Missouri are inhabited by white-tailed deer. Whitetail deer are known to frequent the proposed hatchery site (Russell, 2000).

Common furbearing animals in the Fort Peck project area are the beaver, mink, muskrat, badger, and skunk. Predatory species include the coyote, fox, bobcat, and weasel. Prairie dogs, ground squirrels, porcupine, jackrabbits, and cottontails can also be found on project lands. However, there are no prairie dogs inhabiting the proposed hatchery site.

Reptiles and amphibians in the area are somewhat limited in terms of species diversity. The only venomous snake in the area is the prairie rattler. Other snakes that occur in the area are the western garter snake, the bull snake, and the western hognose snake. The snapping turtle and a species of painted turtle also occur in the region but are not common. Amphibians are uncommon around Fort Peck, but the tiger salamander, great plains toad, leopard frog, and bullfrog do occur.

The most common upland game bird in the area is the sharp-tailed grouse. This game bird can be found throughout the area. Sage grouse, ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey, and Hungarian partridge are also found within the area.

Several species of non-game birds use the grasslands and woodlands on project lands as nesting habitats, a food source, and winter cover. Birds considered common in the area and occurring in large numbers during one or more seasons include red-tailed hawks, marsh hawks, common nighthawks, eastern kingbirds, prairie horned larks, bank swallows, black-billed magpies, pinyon jays, mountain bluebirds, Bohemian waxwings, and other songbirds. Rough-legged hawks are also known to use the site (Russell, 2000).

4.9.1. Migratory Birds, Predatory Birds, and Waterfowl. Fort Peck is in the Central Flyway. Area waterfowl are both migratory and resident. Waterfowl habitat occurs throughout the area. Waterfowl that nest in the Ft. Peck project area include Canada geese, mallards, pintails, gadwalls, green-winged teal, widgeons, ruddy ducks,



and coots. Several other species, such as the white-fronted goose, snow goose, grebe, merganser, canvasback, scaup, and other diving ducks, also use the Ft. Peck project area during their migrations (USACE, 1992). Ducks, especially mallards, are known to feed within the cultivated portions of the proposed hatchery site during the winter (Russell, 2000)(McMurry, 2000).

Other migratory birds expected to frequent the Fort Peck area and likely the proposed hatchery site may include herons, cormorants, and egrets.

4.10. Rare, Threatened, Endangered and Species of Concern.

Federally listed endangered species that may be found in the proposed project area include the bald eagle, piping plovers, interior least tern, and the black-footed ferret.

4.10.1. Bald Eagle. Bald eagles winter downstream from the dam primarily in the large cottonwood trees located in the Downstream Recreation Area. Their diet consists mainly of fish and small mammals, however, they are not above scavenging on weak or dying waterfowl. There are a few scattered cottonwood trees located within the proposed hatchery site which receive limited use by bald eagles, however, during most of the winter, the nearest water to these trees is frozen. It is likely that the majority of eagles would choose perch trees closer to the open water flowing within the channel. Eagles do not use these trees for roosting or nesting purposes. In general, there is an abundance of mature cottonwoods and other suitable perch trees scattered throughout the area downstream of the dam.

4.10.2. Interior Least Tern and Piping Plovers. Interior least terns and piping plovers have been observed feeding on the sand beaches or the river downstream of the powerhouse during migration, but no nests have occurred in the downstream area adjacent to the proposed site.

Following their listing as endangered, least terns were first documented in Montana at Fort Peck Reservoir in 1987. To date, almost all the least terns in Montana have been found in three areas: the eastern end of Fort Peck Reservoir above Fort Peck Dam along the Big Dry Arm; the Missouri River below Fort Peck Dam; and the Yellowstone River below Miles City (MFWP, 2000).

In 1994, eight nests were found at Fort Peck Reservoir, all on a small island within sight of Fort Peck Dam. The eight nests were initiated by six pairs of least terns and were near the nests of some common terns. Only three nests were successful and, of six young produced, only two birds fledged. Nest and chick loss was probably due to gull predation. This was the third year least tern production was observed at Fort Peck Reservoir, and the most nests seen since surveys began in 1987 (MFWP, 2000).

Terns and plovers both typically utilize open, sandy and/or gravelly beach type or shoreline areas. A distinct, vertical cut-bank exists between the proposed fish hatchery site and the nearest sandy or open stretch of shoreline. The only influence the hatchery



would pose to the open shoreline would be the crossing of the shoreline by a water delivery pipeline from the dredge cut bay leading to the hatchery. No other development associated with the hatchery would occur on this open shoreline area.

4.10.3. Black Footed Ferret. The black footed ferret does not occur on or near the proposed project area. The nearest location these animals have been known to exist is in the UL Bend Wilderness Area in the central to western end of the Fort Peck project which is over 100 miles upstream from the project site (USACE, 1999). Ferrets depend heavily upon prairie dog colonies. No colonies exist within the project site.

4.11. Cultural Resources.

The project lands classified as recreation areas at Fort Peck reservoir have been surveyed for cultural resources. Several other tracts of land have also been surveyed in the past few years. Tipi ring sites are the most prevalent type of habitation site in the area near the dam. Other site types include historic shanty towns, bison jumps, small prehistoric campsites, and lithic scatters. Paleontological sites are also found along Fort Peck lands.

There have been several cultural resources surveys conducted in or near the proposed fish hatchery area. The entire area proposed for the fish hatchery has been surveyed for cultural resources. No cultural sites have been located within the proposed construction area.

Several buildings and 12 residential homes in the town of Fort Peck, plus the dam and powerhouses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

4.12. Tribal Concerns.

The Corps has coordinated with several of the nearby tribes, specifically, the Fort Peck and the Fort Belknap Tribes. The Fort Peck Tribal reservation is located within 15 miles of the proposed fish hatchery. The Fort Belknap reservation is approximately 100 miles distant. Although no one from either of these tribes were able to attend the public meeting on January 19th, 2000, interest was expressed in learning about the outcome of the meeting. Coordination to this point has consisted of sending both tribes a facsimile to invite them to the public meeting. In addition, a voice mail message was left with Poncho Bigbee, in the Natural Resources Department of the Fort Belknap Tribe. A phone conversation concerning the January 19th meeting occurred between Carl Four Star of the Fort Peck Tribe and Becky Otto, a staff archeologist, prior to the meeting.

4.13. Water Resources.

4.13.1. Surface Water. The Missouri River begins at the junction of the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin Rivers, known as "The Three Forks", near the city of Three Forks in the Rocky Mountains of south Montana. From there to Fort Peck Dam, a



length of approximately 550 miles, Fort Peck Lake has a total drainage area of 57,725 square miles. The only other significant streams that flow into Fort Peck Lake are the Musselshell River and Big Dry Creek.

The hatchery site is located along the Missouri River immediately below the Fort Peck dam and about 11 miles upstream of the mouth of the Milk River. Steep bluffs that rise up from the river valley to the adjacent plains mark the topography at the site. Surface water drains across the site directly to the Missouri River (Fort Peck Dam tailwater).

Surface water immediately adjacent to the hatchery site consists of "dredge cut" water. This dredge cut water consists of backwater from the Missouri river proper which gained access and resides in the areas where soil was dredged from the Missouri's banks and utilized as fill material for the earthen dam. The dredge cut water is the most abundant and most economical source of water for the hatchery and would be pumped from daily.

4.13.2. Groundwater. The best ground water source in the area is found in wells drilled in the alluvium along the Missouri River Valley, but water can also be found in the Fox Hills-Hell Creek aquifer in Garfield and McCone Counties and on Harper Ridge, where springs are numerous. Ground water is relatively deep in the breaks area, and domestic wells generally vary from 300 to 1,200 feet deep. Artesian wells can be developed over much of the area by drilling into the Judith River Formation.

The depth to the water table at the site is expected to occur at an approximate depth of 13 feet below ground surface or greater. Groundwater was encountered in only one soil boring near the potential rearing ponds. It is possible that the groundwater encountered in this boring was perched because the soils encountered were described as fat clays. In addition, in the interval at which groundwater was encountered, the soil material was described as having a crumbly texture that presumably may exhibit greater permeability due to secondary porosity.

4.14. Floodplain.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flood Boundary Map, Missouri River, Fort Peck Dam to Garrison Dam, August 1986, the entire project area is outside the 500-year flood boundary.

4.15. Hazardous Waste.

4.15.1. Preliminary Assessment Screening. A preliminary assessment screening was conducted for the proposed fish hatchery site on August 27, 1999. The assessment included a visual site inspection and a file search.



The visual site inspection evaluated for the following characteristics.

1. Unusual odors-chemical.
2. Stained Soil.
3. Stressed vegetation unusual dead or bare spots.
4. Leachate seeps.
5. Land features related to human activity.
6. Unnatural surface features.
7. Unauthorized dumping-drums or disposal containers.
8. Other debris: household, farms, industrial waste.
9. Underground storage tanks: fuel, waste oil.
10. Above-ground storage tanks: fuel, solvents, waste oil.
11. Unmarked drums stored on site.
12. Oil slicks on water.
13. Machinery repair.
14. Electric transmission lines.
15. Pipelines: major electrical equipment.
16. Potential asbestos containing materials and buildings.
17. Water wells on site, in use or improperly closed.

Of these items two were observed as occurring on the site; Land features related to human activity and pipelines. Land features related to human activity on site include the features associated with the Goose Pond recreation facilities and a man-made surface water drainage ditch. Pipelines include an existing sewer line.

A search of the Corps of Engineers real estate and Fort Peck office record files was also conducted in order to identify any record which may demonstrate hazardous waste being stored on-site, spills or releases on-site, or disposal having been conducted on-site. The search yielded no records documenting the occurrence of such activities.

4.15.2. Hatchery Chemicals. Operation at the hatchery will require a limited supply and application of certain chemicals for disease prevention, treatment, and general disinfection. Examples include anti-fungals such formalin, antibiotics such as tetracycline and salt, algacides such as copper sulfate, potassium-permanganate for control of parasites, and a variety of ammonia compounds for general disinfecting and disease prevention.

Purchase, storage, and use of these chemicals will adhere to strict guidelines both necessary for hatchery success and as required by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Pharmaceuticals Association (USPA), Environmental Protection Agency, and state and local regulations.



5.0. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.

5.1. Air Quality Impacts.

Construction of the hatchery would require the use of heavy equipment. Such equipment would generate dust and exhaust, however, Best Management Practices such as watering down of dust during construction will make impacts minimal. Operation of the hatchery will result in negligible output of pollutants generated by vehicle operation and heating operations once the hatchery is functional. Air quality is not expected to suffer significant impacts as a result of construction or operation of the hatchery.

5.2. Socioeconomic.

The area near the hatchery site is one of low population and moderate income based primarily on agriculture. Construction and operation of the hatchery is expected to have at least minor, beneficial impacts to the local economy. The hatchery would provide residence for three permanent employees and host several seasonal employees during busy times of the year. This could potentially increase local sales within the area.

In addition, production at the hatchery is needed in order to meet existing and future recreational fishing demands. Meeting this demand is expected to secure and/or increase potential visitation to the area.

No adverse impacts to the local or state economy are expected as a result of this hatchery. Rather, as stated, the potential exists for beneficial impacts.

5.3. Climate.

Construction of the hatchery is not expected to impact the local climate. The proposed hatchery's relatively small size, location within the river valley, and close proximity to water would preclude its creating even its own microclimate. Rather, it is likely that operations at the hatchery will frequently be dictated by the dominating weather which can occur around Fort Peck.

5.4. Land Use.

Overall land use is not expected to change as a result of the project. Although the Goose Pond, a small, low intensity picnic area, is located within the project's boundary, a similar recreation area, the Round House Point is expected to adequately replace the Goose Pond. The Goose Pond currently serves overflow camping and picnicking. Facilities include a vault toilet and a picnic shelter. This facility's function, according to the Fort Peck Park Manager, can easily be accommodated at the Round House Point. The Round House Point is located less than one mile from the Goose Pond area. Currently, the Goose Pond area contains no goose ponds.



The approximate 40 acres of agricultural lease land located at the proposed hatchery site would have the agricultural lease be terminated upon the beginning of construction of the hatchery. This area is not considered prime farmland unless irrigated, thus prime farmland conversion impact analysis is not required. Reduction of the amount of agricultural land within the project area by 40 acres is not considered a significant impact.

Corps of Engineers, Fort Peck personnel, do not anticipate a need to reclassify land use for the area. It is the Corps' belief that the proposed hatchery and interpretive center will also serve low intensity recreation as well as fish and wildlife management objectives. Although there currently is an agricultural lease on the site, the site is not classified as an agricultural area.

5.5. Roads.

Construction of the hatchery is expected to temporarily increase traffic and congestion on local roads. However, once the bulk of the equipment has arrived on site and is staged, the majority of traffic will remain inside the project boundaries. Traffic coming and going from the project site will consist mainly of personal vehicles and is not expected to be of significance to local areas, especially during the tourist season.

Although the hatchery will include a visitor center, its primary function will be the production of fish. Visitor activity at the hatchery will consist primarily of self guided tours through a small interpretive area. Such opportunities are not expected to generate significant volumes of destination tourists or traffic to the area. It is unlikely that the hatchery will result in even minor impacts to highways, interstates, or local road systems.

5.6. Geology and Soils.

The construction of the hatchery will result in the movement of much soil over the entire 100 acre site. Even considering this, it is unlikely that the hatchery will significantly affect even local soil or geologic characteristics. Soil and related geologic patterns are derived from much larger scale occurrences than such a small project could influence. Therefore, it is not expected that this hatchery would result in significant impacts to soils or geology within the area.

5.7. Vegetation.

The primary function of the vegetation at the project site is to support the fauna discussed in Section 4.9. The Fort Peck project and surrounding area provide vast areas of high quality, open, undisturbed habitat for such species. With the dominant cover at the site consisting of crested wheat grass, it is expected that surrounding land with higher habitat value exists in abundance. Crested wheat grass, along with the other species at the site, also exist in abundance immediately around the project site as well as on the surrounding uplands. The project would essentially result in the elimination of all



vegetation types at the site with the exception of approximately 10 to 15 acres located on the north edge of the project. This section, located along the dredge cut shoreline, will not allow for major features of the hatchery due to a lack of stability. Considering the vast amount of habitat in the general area, this loss of vegetation and corresponding habitat is not expected to result in significant adverse impacts.

5.8. Wetlands.

The 3.9 acres of wetland described in Section 4.8 would be completely eliminated from the project site should the hatchery be constructed. Coordination with the Corps of Engineers, Montana Regulatory Office indicates that a Clean Water Act, Section 404 permit would be necessary prior to placing fill in these wetlands. Mitigation would be required at an approximate ratio of 1.5 acres created for every 1 acre impacted. A mitigation site immediately adjacent to the hatchery site has been identified and a conceptual mitigation plan can be found later in this document in Section 6.0. Considering the relatively minor amounts of wetlands to be impacted, the wetland's dominance of reed canary grass, and the implementation of the proposed mitigation plan, it is unlikely that impacts would be significant. The dominance of reed canary grass makes the wetland's value low, as reed canary is a species which is of low food value, typically creating a thick mono-culture which precludes the establishment of more desirable native species.

5.9. Fauna.

The primary fauna expected to be impacted by loss of habitat, via construction of the hatchery, would be species of game birds and the white tail deer.

It is likely that the deer utilizing the 100 acre site spend their time within the project area either traveling to and from surrounding habitat areas and/or utilizing the site to bed or feed. Ft. Peck personnel have observed deer travelling through this area from surrounding private lands on there way to both water and to other habitats, specifically to habitat within the town of Fort Peck. Deer commonly graze the yards and fields within the town. It is highly unlikely that any of these deer utilize the project site for feeding, watering, and/or bedding exclusively, especially during the breeding season.

Should this project be constructed, all of the existing deer habitat, with the exception of the 10-15 acres located along the north edge of the site, would be eliminated. Considering the deer's relative ease around man and man-made structures, it is likely that those deer currently known to travel through the area would continue near their normal pattern, avoiding the site by skirting its boundaries. This would increase their travel distance to a minor degree. It is also likely that deer utilize the area for feeding and/or bedding to a lesser degree than surrounding habitats. Adjacent wooded coulees and alfalfa fields likely provide more optimal bedding and feeding cover. Both white-tail and mule deer have the ability to cover a fairly large range and according to observations by Fort Peck personnel, it is known that deer using the proposed hatchery



site already spend time on adjacent lands. Considering these tendencies, it is not likely that this project will result in significant impacts to the deer. Deer in the general area are very abundant, so abundant that some consider their populations to have reached nuisance levels.

Game birds and other animals are also expected to relocate to adjacent habitat. Even with the loss of this habitat, bird and other populations within the general area are not expected to suffer significant declines. Most will relocate and a few of the smaller, less mobile species may perish. However, as stated earlier, the remoteness and relative lack of development within the project area provides for vast acreages of similar habitat which support a relative abundance of like species.

5.9.1. Migratory Birds, Predatory Birds, and Waterfowl. There is a 40 acre site within the project boundary which supports feeding waterfowl during the winter months. This parcel, currently leased for agriculture, is located in the southeast corner of the site. In the past few years wheat and barley production on this area have provided winter food for ducks, especially mallards. With this project, wheat and barley production on this parcel would be eliminated and replaced with a hatchery building. Feeding waterfowl and other animals would be forced to seek other food sources. Due to an abundant local food supply it is unlikely that removal of this habitat would result in significant impacts to such species.

It is likely that the fry and fingerlings being raised in the rearing ponds would attract some predatory birds. This is common for fish hatcheries and is dealt with in various manners. Current practices at the Miles City hatchery do not allow for the taking of predatory birds. At Miles City, attempts are made to scare feeding predators away from the ponds, however, some predation by such birds is expected and lived with. Discouraging such predators from feeding upon these fish is not expected to result in any measurable impact to the birds.

5.10. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species.

5.10.1. Bald Eagle. Although there are many wintering bald eagles within the general area of Fort Peck dam, the proposed hatchery site does not contain the area's optimum habitat for eagles. Its' few, scattered cottonwoods do provide perch sites for eagles and other birds, however, the trees are few and their loss would likely be insignificant considering the many other cottonwood trees located near the river.

5.10.2. Interior Least Tern and Piping Plovers. There are no nesting terns or plovers near the proposed hatchery site. The nearest stretch of shoreline with potential for feeding exists below a steep cut-bank, outside the project's affected environment. No impacts to terns or plovers are expected as a result of this project.

5.10.3. Black Footed Ferret. No prairie dog colonies or black footed ferrets exist on or near the project's affected environment, therefore, the project is not likely to impact black footed ferrets.



5.11. Cultural Resources.

There have been several cultural resource surveys conducted in or near the proposed fish hatchery area. The entire area proposed for the fish hatchery has been surveyed for cultural resources. No cultural sites have been located within the proposed construction area, therefore no adverse affects to cultural resources is expected. See Appendix A for SHPO stamp of concurrence.

Several buildings and 12 residential homes in the town of Fort Peck plus the dam and powerhouses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. Based on a recent visit to the area, the view of the townsite National Register district from the project area and the view from the historic district towards the proposed hatchery were photographed. Based on the results of the site visit, it is likely that there would be no adverse impact to the historic properties as a result of constructing the proposed fish hatchery. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is ongoing.

5.12. Tribal Concerns.

The coordination described in Section 4.11 has resulted in no comments being received from any tribes. The proposed fish hatchery consumes a relatively small area and the tribes coordinated with are located a relatively long distance from the site. There are no known cultural resource sites or Native American grave sites located within the proposed project's boundaries and based on the landforms present, none are expected to be found during the upcoming surveys. Should relevant cultural resources or grave sites be discovered during the upcoming survey, the Corps will re-initiate consultation with the appropriate tribes. At this time, there are no known tribal concerns with the project nor are impacts to tribes expected.

5.13. Water Resources.

5.13.1. Surface Water. Hatchery Operations will require maximum use of approximately 5,000 gpm of water from the dredge cut area. It is estimated that slightly over 7,000,000 acre feet of water flows annually in the downstream area below Fort Peck (Dolan, 1997). Hydrologist Larry Dolan conducted a Missouri River Water Availability Analysis for the State of Montana in February of 1997 which concluded that "water is generally available in the lower Missouri river during the irrigation season, even after all existing water rights, including reservations, are taken out." Considering the physical availability of water, coupled with the fact that nearly all of the water used in the hatchery will be returned directly to the Missouri River it is unlikely that surface water would suffer significant impacts. All water will be treated in accordance with Montana water quality standards, NPDES permit limitations, and EPA criteria prior to return to the river.



5.13.2. Groundwater. The availability and quality of groundwater in the area is generally undefined. Based upon soil characteristics and the results of soil borings taken in late 1999, it is thought that adequate groundwater is available for pumping in the general vicinity of the dredge cuts. However, additional testing is required in order to draw any solid conclusions regarding the availability and quality of groundwater. Use of groundwater will be based upon there being no adverse impacts to groundwater, the actual availability of groundwater, and the quality of groundwater, all of which will be confirmed upon further investigation.

5.14. Floodplain.

The proposed hatchery would be located outside the 500-year flood boundary, therefore the project would not be expected to impact the floodplain.

5.15. Hazardous Waste.

As a result of the preliminary assessment screening, it is possible to reasonably conclude that hazardous substances have not been stored on-site, nor is it likely that they have been released on the site. The recreation facilities located on-site have not generated hazardous substances, nor has the existing sewer line. The hatchery building would likely connect to the existing sewer line for release of restroom effluent generated within the visitors center.

It is unlikely that this project would be subject to or result in release of hazardous substances to the environment. The chemicals needed for hatchery operations would be stored, used, and disposed of in accordance with state, federal, and local regulations.

5.16. Cumulative Impacts.

Cumulative effects are caused by the aggregate of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative effects should be analyzed in terms of the specific resource, ecosystem, and human community being affected. The primary resources being affected by this action are limited. This analysis will focus on affects to approximately 50 acres of crested wheatgrass dominated habitat which includes approximately 3.9 acres of reed canary grass wetland. The geographic extent of this analysis is limited to those actions occurring within an approximate 2 mile radius of this project which have affects on wetland and/or grassland habitat. This extent was chosen based upon the expected home range of wildlife utilizing this habitat. This extent does not include the entire range of migratory birds as the proposed project is not expected to contribute to the additive impacts upon portions of their range outside the 2 mile radius.

5.16.1. Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions. As of February of 2000, four other known projects near the proposed fish hatchery are being considered for development. These include the development of a campground, the development of an interpretive center, the development of a housing subdivision, and the development of a municipal water delivery system..



The proposed campground would be located adjacent to Highway 24 and would overlook the west end of the dam. Additive impacts would include the reduction of crested wheatgrass by approximately 55 acres. No wetland impacts are anticipated as a result of the campground. Final construction and operation of the campground would allow for establishment of grass and tree habitat along fringe and open areas. Such establishment has not been quantified but would be expected to minimize impacts to wildlife utilizing existing habitat and somewhat reduce the 55 acre impact. Environmental impact analysis for this project has not yet been conducted.

The interpretive center would be located on the toe of the dam, near the powerhouse on an approximate 3 to 4 acre site and has already been evaluated for environmental impacts. The interpretive center building would be approximately 15,000 square feet and would complement the existing architecture styles near the dam. Parking for 100 vehicles would also be included. The primary effect from this action would be the reduction of crested wheatgrass by 3 to 4 acres. The environmental assessment resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact with no mitigation required.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has analyzed alternatives for a municipal, rural, and industrial water supply system for the Fort Peck Rural Water District. An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for this project have been prepared which indicate minor impacts to habitat and wetlands which will be mitigated through avoidance and reestablishment of native species. Considering such, no additive impact to wetlands or grassland habitat are expected as a result of this proposal.

A platted private "air-park" subdivision consisting of approximately 42 acres to be located along an adjacent air strip approximately 2 miles west of the proposed hatchery is also proposed. The subdivision would result in the removal of approximately 42 acres of crested wheatgrass with mixed ponderosa pines. As with the campground, fringe areas would allow for the establishment of grassland and tree areas however, such acreages have not been quantified.

5.16.2. Past Actions. Past actions falling within the scope of this analysis which the Corps is aware of which may contribute to the net impact on habitat include construction of Fort Peck Dam, construction of a Western Area Power Administration warehouse and maintenance facility, Reopening of the Fort Peck Airstrip, and construction of a new Corps maintenance facility.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Master Water Control Manual (Master Manual EIS), Missouri River, dated July 1994 recognizes that riparian habitat along the Missouri River has decreased from historic levels due to intensive agricultural development. It also recognizes that implementation of the proposed water control plan would further decrease riparian habitat. In addition, the Master Manual EIS states that wetland habitat along the Missouri River has decreased historically due to the construction of the Mainstem System, other flood control projects, as well as intense



agricultural development. The EIS does not quantify such losses nor does it discuss the severity of such impacts on a resource by resource basis.

In February of 1995 the Corps of Engineers transferred approximately 12 acres of land to the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) for the construction of a warehouse and maintenance facility. A shop facility and parking lot were constructed at the site. Since then, WAPA has requested an additional 7 acres which the Corps is currently considering. Should the additional land be granted, the WAPA project would result in a total of approximately 19 acres of impacts to crested wheatgrass habitat.

In 1998 the Fort Peck Airstrip was outgranted to the Valley county airport commission. The airstrip consists of approximately 200 acres of previously maintained grassland. No new impacts or additive impacts are expected.

In 1990 the Corps of Engineers completed construction of a new maintenance facility located just east of Highway 117, approximately 400 yards from the proposed hatchery site. The maintenance facility impacted approximately 4 acres of crested wheatgrass habitat.

5.16.3. Cumulative Conclusion. As described throughout earlier sections of this EA, the eastern portions of the State of Montana, the Fort Peck area in particular, are areas of low human populations and very little development. The project area's human population, as described by the Montana Department of Commerce has been on a steady decline for approximately 20 years.

The Fort Peck project lies adjacent to the nearly 1.1 million acre Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMRNWR) which is managed for a wide variety of wildlife and wildlife habitat oriented goals.

Considering the yet undeveloped characteristics of the Fort Peck area, demonstrated by its lack of population and its being virtually surrounded by the CMRNWR, there is ample evidence that wildlife habitat within the project's general area and even throughout the region has not suffered significant adverse affects. The local area provides a relative abundance of alfalfa fields, wooded coulees, river bottom cottonwoods, depressional wetlands, riverine habitat, and grasslands. It is highly unlikely that the overall ecosystem is suffering from cumulative impacts. This project is expected to result in direct impacts to a small amount of habitat. The 3.9 acres of wetland habitat will be mitigated at a 1.5 to 1 ratio with an effort to replace reed canary grass with more desirable species. The fringe areas of the project will also be planted to desirable trees and native grass species.

This project is not expected to provide an increment which would result in or contribute to significant cumulative impacts.



5.17. Beneficial Impacts.

5.17.1. Pallid Sturgeon. The pallid sturgeon is one of the largest (30-60 inches) fishes found in the Missouri River drainage, with specimens weighing up to 68 pounds. It is normally found in areas of strong current and firm sand bottom in the main channel of large turbid rivers such as the Missouri River. Sturgeon are bottom feeders, using their sensory barbels to detect food and their protruded, tubelike mouth to suck in bottom-dwelling plants and animals uncovered as they move along the bottom of the river.

The pallid sturgeon is distributed from the headwaters of the Missouri River (Fort Benton-Great Falls, Montana) through the Mississippi River to New Orleans, Louisiana. Virtually the entire range of the pallid sturgeon has been altered in some way. Normal movements have been blocked by dam construction. Alteration of water quality, temperature and flow patterns, as well as reduced spawning habitat, have reduced the overall habitat diversity of the pallid sturgeon, threatening the species' survival. As a result of these habitat changes, only limited successful pallid sturgeon reproduction has been documented in recent history, and the pallid was federally listed as endangered in 1990. Most sightings of this species in South Dakota since 1980 have occurred in the Missouri River reservoirs of Lakes Lewis and Clark, Sharpe and Oahe. Recent research efforts in South Dakota and Montana have included the implanting of sonic transmitters into pallids to learn more about habitat needs and movement patterns and to locate spawning areas or other concentration sites. Successful propagation of other sturgeon species may assist with captive breeding of pallid sturgeon if enough pallids can be found in the wild. It is anticipated that the Fort Peck Fish Hatchery could be used to assist in the recovery efforts of this fish species.

As described in the 1993 Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Plan, two of the six Recovery Priority Management (RPM) areas for the endangered pallid sturgeon are located within the state of Montana. RPM 1 is located on the Missouri River from the mouth of the Marias River to the headwaters of Fort Peck Reservoir and lies entirely within Montana. RPM 2 is located on the Missouri River from Fort Peck Dam to the headwaters of Lake Sakakawea, including the Yellowstone River upstream to the mouth of the Tongue River. Over 90% of RPM 2 occurs in Montana. The geographic area of RPM's 1 and 2 is greater than the combined area of the remaining four RPM's.

Pallid sturgeon propagation efforts for these two "upper basin" RPM's are described in the "1998 Stocking / Augmentation Plan for Pallid Sturgeon in RPM areas 1 & 2 in Montana and North Dakota." Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery in Yankton, South Dakota is the primary pallid sturgeon hatchery for the upper basin RPM's. Garrison National Fish Hatchery in North Dakota is the backup pallid sturgeon hatchery for the upper basin RPM's. Existing facilities for pallid sturgeon propagation at these two facilities are marginally adequate, since both hatchery facilities were retrofitted for the purpose of pallid sturgeon propagation.

The Garrison facility cannot overwinter sturgeon because the hatchery is not winterized, nor is the facility ideally configured for sturgeon. The recent quarantine at



the Gavins Point facility has precluded recent stocking of some years reproduction efforts. Space limitations resulting from holding these year's fish may preclude spawning additional fish in the near future. The limitations of both the South Dakota and North Dakota hatcheries were discussed during the Upper Basin Pallid Sturgeon Working Group meeting in January, 2000. Construction of a new facility was not identified as a recovery need by this working group, however, five of the thirteen "propagation and augmentation needs" identified by the working group have the potential of being addressed by a pallid sturgeon rearing option at Fort Peck Dam:

- increase emphasis on brood collection and propagation
- improve fish holding capabilities at current hatcheries
- maximize propagation efforts to ensure future progeny in hatcheries
- ensure survival of progeny in hatcheries
- continue virus and other disease monitoring and prevention methods

In addition to limitations present in the existing pallid sturgeon hatchery facilities, the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Department has raised concerns about stocking out-of-state raised pallid sturgeon into Montana waters. Therefore, a design "option" for pallid sturgeon propagation facilities for the Fort Peck Hatchery has allowed for flexibility in future management options.

The *November 1997 Stocking/Augmentation Plan for Pallid Sturgeon in Recovery Priority Management Areas 1 & 2 in Montana and North Dakota*, prepared by the Upper Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup Stocking Team, identifies a maximum stocking effort of 1,000, 1 year old pallid sturgeon per year over a six year period, beginning in 1998. The Fort Peck Fish Hatchery has been preliminarily designed with an option which could feasibly propagate 5,000 pallid annually, thus meeting the group's maximum goals and allowing flexibility for future increases and potential losses.

6.0. PERMIT AND MITIGATION AND REQUIREMENTS.

6.1. Water Rights.

The Fort Peck Fish Hatchery is expected to utilize 5,000 gallons of water per minute. 5,000 gallons per minute (gpm) is the equivalent of approximately 11.14 cubic feet per second (cfs). This volume of water is for total usage, from either one of its sources or from a combination of both. It does not however, consider return flows. This hatchery is expected to return all of its utilized water (less evaporation) to the Missouri River via a flow through system.

Use of this water will require application for State of Montana water rights permits. For details regarding the application process and procedures please refer to Chapter 6 of the *Montana Warm Water Fish Hatchery, Conceptual Design Report*.



6.2. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES).

The Montana State Fish Hatchery will require discharges of up to 5,000 cfs to the Missouri River dredge cut area. Such discharge requires a Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Authorization To Discharge Under The Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. This authorization sets forth effluent limitations, water treatment standards, and other requirements for point source discharges into state waters. Its requirements have been adopted in a manner and incorporate rules established and administrated by the Environmental Protection Agency for NPDES. For details regarding the application process and procedures please refer to Chapter 6 of the *Montana Warm Water Fish Hatchery, Conceptual Design Report*.

6.2.1. Storm Water Runoff.

In addition to the MPDES/NPDES permit required for point source discharge at the facility, the State will also need an MPDES/NPDES permit for storm water runoff. This permit will include requirements for on-site storm water runoff control during construction. Its intent is to eliminate substantial sediment and/or hazardous wastes from entering adjacent water bodies during the construction of the hatchery. The State will likely be required to submit a storm water runoff control plan which demonstrates "Best Management Practices" prior to authorizing its contractor to begin construction. Typical requirements include the implementation of silt fences, isolation of vehicle maintenance areas, spill control materials, identification of disposal procedures and locations, and when appropriate, demonstrating the ability to retain surface water runoff and conduct tests and treatment prior to discharge.

6.3. Clean Water Act.

Coordination with the Corps of Engineers Montana Regulatory Office is ongoing. At the time of this report, the type of permit appropriate for the aforementioned fill activities had not been determined. Upon identification of permit type, the State of Montana will either be required to submit and application for an individual permit or be required to abide by the conditions set forth in an already existing, appropriate Nationwide Permit or Regional General Permit. For details regarding the application process and procedures please refer to Chapter 6 of the *Montana Warm Water Fish Hatchery, Conceptual Design Report*.

6.3.1. State Section 401 Water Quality Certification. State water quality certification, including public notification, is normally handled concurrently with the Corps 404 process. Normally, meeting the application requirements for the 404 permit also satisfies the States 401 requirements. It is expected that 404 application for this project will also satisfy 401 requirements and that the Corps regulatory office will provide all application materials to the appropriate state authorities. This will allow each process to occur concurrently and inclusive of both agencies' needs.



6.4. Mitigation.

As described in Section 4.8., should the hatchery be constructed, approximately 3.9 acres of wetland dominated by reed canary grass will be eliminated. In order to adequately replace such a loss, the Helena Corps of Engineers Regulatory Office has recommended a 1.5 acre:1 acre mitigation ratio. This would result in the construction of approximately 6 acres of wetland. To follow is a conceptual mitigation plan which meets the country's goal of "No Net Loss" of wetlands.

6.4.1. Location. The proposed mitigation site is located directly to the south of the proposed hatchery site's southeast corner in what is known as the "Wildlife Viewing Area". It is literally "across the street" from the hatchery building as only a gravel road separate the two sites. This site has been selected due to its proximity to the project site and impacted wetlands, its potential for multiple uses, and the availability of hydrology. It consists of flat pasture land lying below steep ridges and is currently being utilized for both feeding and watering of deer, antelope, and elk. The entire Wildlife Viewing Area is a fenced area which is managed much like a large, open zoo. In addition to natural water and food which exist in the area, wildlife are supplemented with both food and water.

6.4.2. Conceptual Design. Hydrology exists at the site in the form of artesian well water. Fort Peck project personnel have observed a constant and reliable flow of water coming from one of the ridges located on the site. At present, the well water runs across the site and into the ditch located on the down-gradient side. Construction of the wetland would involve delineating any existing wetlands which the artesian now supports and avoiding adverse impacts to them. Hydrology would be captured by excavating in an irregular and undulating manner to depths of approximately one to two feet, consequentially intercepting the artesian water. Once the depressions fill with enough water to saturate the soil and create some shallow standing water, the remainder of the artesian water would continue down its original path.

Clay soils already existing within the existing profile are expected to be adequate for water holding and the eventual development of hydric characteristics. If needed, existing hydric soils could be transported to the mitigation site from the impacted wetlands. This however would be a last resort as these soils contain the existing wetland's seed bank which is now supportive of reed canary grass.

In an effort to improve the overall value of the wetland, an attempt to establish species of higher value than reed canary grass is planned. More desirable species, native to the area, will either be planted by seed, tuber, or by transplanting. Seed, tubers, and/or mature plants may be gathered from commercial sources or from existing wetlands in the area. Gathering of seed and/or plants from existing wetlands would be more desirable as they will be accustomed to seasonal influences and soils similar to those of the mitigation site. However, as with soils, should existing seed bank need to be transported from the impacted wetlands it could be accomplished.



Detailed engineering of this plan coupled with implementation should provide an adequate replacement of existing wetlands and may possibly create a larger acreage of more desirable wetlands.

Randal P. Sellers 7/12/00

Prepared by:
Randal P. Sellers
Environmental Resource
Specialist

Candace Gorton

Approved by:
Candace M. Gorton
Chief, Environmental &
Economics Section



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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US Army Corps of Engineers. 2000. Foundation Investigation Report. Proposed Fish Hatchery Fort Peck, Montana.

Western Regional Climate Center. <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu>



APPENDIX

A

COORDINATION



Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks





**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

cmg 1/31/00
Randy

P. O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-3186
FAX: 406-444-4952
Ref: DO0053-00
January 24, 2000

Randal P. Sellers, Study Manager
Department of Army
COE, Omaha District
ATTN: CENWO-PM-AE
215 North 17th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4978

Dear Mr. Sellers:

With respect to the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed Fort Peck Hatchery, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP) is reviewing all aspects to assure that the EA complies with MEPA regulation. You should also expect comment from other state agencies and the public with regards to many issues. Some of the agencies I would expect comment from include State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Department of Natural Resources (DNRC), and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Specific concerns that FWP would have at this time would be:

- A. Description of the Proposed Action:
1. Project Area Description;
 2. Hatchery Water Sources;
 3. Water Treatment Facilities;
 4. Hatchery Layout and Structures;
 5. Agency Authorization and Funding
- B. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action:
1. State Wide Fisheries needs in the Future;
 2. Production Goals;
 3. Impacts to State Wide Warm Water Fish Management Plans;
 4. Species that are to be Reared;
 5. Endangered Species and Native Fish recovery and Restoration;
 6. Mitigation;



Sellers - COE - DO0053-00

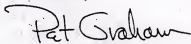
January 24, 2000

Page 2 of 2

- C. Alternatives Considered:
 - 1. Expansion of Miles City Hatchery;
 - 2. Other Sites;
 - 3. Take no Action at This Time;
 - 4. Size and Design to Meet Fish Species and Number needs
- D. Affected Environment and Environmental Impacts:
 - 1. Land use Impacts;
 - 2. Community Impacts;
 - 3. Public Services/Utilities/Energy/Taxes Impacts;
 - 4. Air Quality Impacts;
 - 5. Water Resources Impacts;
 - 6. Fish and Wildlife Impacts;
 - 7. Vegetation Impacts;
 - 8. Cultural Impacts;
 - 9. Recreation and Aesthetics;
 - 10. Cumulative Impacts;
 - 11. Construction Impacts and;
 - 12. Permits Required;
- E. Coordination:
 - 1. Agency and Public Coordination;
 - 2. Public Review and Comment.

Any further comment we have would be to clarify issues within the general areas described above. This project is extremely important to the sportsmen and to the future management of fisheries in the state of Montana. A complete EA that meets the MEPA standards is essential to adhere to the quick turn around that has been established in order to meet the federal legislative process and funding requirements. If you need further input that is not addressed here, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Graham
Director

Encs.





Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Fisheries Bureau
1420 East 6th Avenue
PO box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Randy Sellers
Environmental - Study Engineer
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Omaha District
ATTN: CENWO-PM-AE
215 North 17th Street
Omaha, NE 68102-4978

Dear Mr. Sellers;

The Fort Peck Hatchery Draft Preliminary Design Report indicates that water discharged from the rearing ponds will be collected and discharged through effluent treatment pond. All wastewater will be allowed to settle, prior to discharge back into the dredge cut area/ Missouri River.

The settling pond is designed to meet minimum treatment standards outlined by the Montana water quality requirements. In meeting these requirements, it is not anticipated that a significant fishery impact will result from discharge of this effluent into the dredge cuts and Missouri River. Water temperatures from ponds may be higher or lower than ambient water temperatures occurring in the Missouri at point of discharge, but the volume of water released compared to volume of water contained in the Dredge Cuts should result in a significant dilution factor. It is also anticipated that the nutrient load in this effluent will be negligible, due to the settling pond. The net effect on the resident fishery and aquatic organisms should be minimal. Approximately 30 different species of fish reside in the dredge cut area, with northern pike, walleye, paddlefish, and sauger being the most common gamefish. The endangered pallid sturgeon has not been captured in the dredge cut area, which is not considered to be suitable habitat, but occasionally is sampled in the Missouri River adjacent to this area. No impact to pallids, either negative or positive is anticipated with discharges from this hatchery facility.

The proposed hatchery project on the 96 acres near the town of Fort Peck will have minor impacts to several avian and mammalian species.

The affects to avian species can be demonstrated in examples associated with other hatchery projects in Montana and other western states. Many species associated with aquatic and riparian habitat will benefit from this project. The project will provide additional ponds (aquatic habitat) that will be used by these species as well as providing a

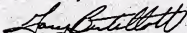


substantial and concentrated food source due to intense fish culture compared to natural systems.

Other birds that are native or migrate through the area should also benefit by providing habitat around the facilities perimeter. During the winter when most of the ponds will be dry and have vegetation growing throughout the bottoms, will provide a supply of seeds and cover for winter-feeding and shelter.

With respect to mammalian species, there will be benefit to many, no impact to others, and minor impact to still others. Species associated with aquatic habitats will generally benefit. Small mammals that now reside in the pasture will be displaced for a short time during construction but will return soon after the completion of the project. Deer that currently use the site for a diurnal migration to and from feeding and cover habitat would have to migrate around any fence that is used to protect the facility. This occurred in Miles City when a fence was placed around the hatchery. In that case there was no adverse affect to the deer population. All indication from other examples and due to the fact that there would be no restrictions to movement around the site and ample habitat to meet deer feeding, cover, fawning, and resting needs, this species will not be impacted by this project.

Sincerely



Gary Bertellotti
Hatchery Bureau Chief





**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

P. O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-3186
FAX: 406-444-4952
Ref: 0445-00
May 31, 2000

Randal Sellers
CENWO-PM-AE
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
215 North 17th Street
Omaha, NE 68102-4978

Dear Mr. Sellers:

After review, by Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Fort Peck Fish Hatchery, there is one additional area that I would like to comment on, the issue of endangered and native fish species. This project has great potential to assist in the recovery of the pallid sturgeon and positive impacts to declining sauger populations in Montana.

Hatcheries are playing a significant roll in the recovery efforts of pallid sturgeon. The design of the Fort Peck Hatchery would include the ability to rear pallid sturgeon for recovery efforts in Montana. A section detailing the potential benefits for pallid sturgeon would be appropriate. In this section the following issues should be addressed: 1) how many sturgeon would the Fort Peck Hatchery need to produce to meet our recovery goals in the Missouri above and below the Fort Peck Dam, and the Yellowstone River; 2) how this program could benefit existing efforts that are on going with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in North and South Dakota; and the status of pallid sturgeon hatchery program and 3) how this hatchery would provide a safety margin for genetic and disease concerns over current hatchery efforts. I have enclosed two documents to assist in your efforts to address pallid sturgeon and would offer our assistance in providing any additional information you may need.

Native fish production would also be an important issue that needs to be expanded on. There are other native fish that would benefit from a hatchery contribution, sauger would be one species. A documented decline of these native fish could be reversed by production at Fort Peck Hatchery. A summary of the potential benefit that a hatchery might have, would be appropriate in this document.

I hope our input has helped your efforts. Feel free to contact me if further information would help your efforts or other questions arise.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Graham
Director

Encs.



**Glasgow Water Resources Regional
Office
(Water Rights)**



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
GLASGOW WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL OFFICE



MARC RACICOT
GOVERNOR

222 6th STREET SOUTH
BOX 1269

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 228-2561
FAX (406) 228-8706

GLASGOW, MONTANA 59230-1269

Friday, February 04, 2000

Randy Sellers
US Army Corp of Engineers
CENWO-PM-AE
215 N 17th St.
Omaha, NB 68102

Subject: Fort Peck Fish Hatchery

Dear Mr. Sellers,

Enclosed is information needed to submit an Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit. As we discussed, you will need to complete two applications, one for the ground water wells and one for surface water from the dredge cuts. (For your information, the ground water quality in this area is not the best. Many people use surface water rather than ground water.)

Following is an explanation of the enclosures:

APPLICATION FOR BENEFICIAL WATER USE PERMIT and INSTRUCTION BOOK

- Complete a separate form for the ground water and surface water use;
- Pages 11 – 18 of the instruction book explains the criteria you need to address;

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS – CRITERIA ADDENDUM B

- This booklet contains some outdated instructions but still includes relevant information explaining what is required to address the criteria for total water appropriations of 5.5 cfs or greater and 4,000 acre-feet or greater. Refer to Pages 12, 13, & 14.

LOWER MISSOURI WATER AVAILABILITY ANALYSIS

- Use this information to assist with the criteria related to water availability.

SENIOR WATER USER INFORMATION

- Use this information to assist with the criteria related to legal water availability and adverse affect;
- There are three lists enclosed – one identifying the private ground water users in the area of possible impact; one for private surface water users in the area of impact; and one showing the reserved water rights from the Missouri river.

"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"



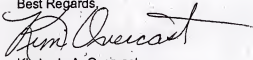
- Use the reserved water right list and the surface water, private users list to address the criteria needed in the application for surface water;
- Use the ground water, private users list to address the criteria needed in the application for ground water;
- Additionally, we sent complete abstracts of all the private users identified in the lists shown above. These are for your reference and should not be returned with the applications.

Finally, we found the Mean Annual Evaporation curves for shallow lakes and reservoirs. It appears the approximate evaporation rate in the area of your project is 40 inches.

As we discussed, the Water Management Bureau of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation will be coordinating the Department's assistance with this application. Rich Moy is the Bureau Chief. Again, his phone number is 406-444-6603.

If you need further help from us, the Glasgow Water Resources Regional Office, please feel free to call. We will be glad to help.

Best Regards,



Kimberly A. Overcast
Water Resources Specialist
Phone No. 406-228-2561
Fax No. 406-228-8706
Email - kovercast@state.mt.us

C: Bob L. Larson, Havre/Glasgow Water Resources Regional Manager
Rich Moy, Water Management Bureau Chief
Denise Biggar, Glasgow Water Resources Specialist



**Montana Department of Environmental
Quality
(NPDES)**





Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marc Racicot, Governor

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • E-mail: www.deq.state.mt.us

January 7, 2000

RE: Application for a permit to discharge
wastewater from a Fish Farm Facility

Dear Applicant:

Enclosed are the application forms necessary to process your discharge permit. The application fee is \$200 for the Fish Farm - General Discharge Permit, make checks payable to DEQ.

Complete the application forms using the example as a guide. Send the completed applications, map, and application fee to:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Water Protection Bureau
PO Box 200901
Helena MT 59620-0901

If you have any questions contact this office at 406/444-3080.

MP: P:\C\T\J\WP\FISHMTR\FP-DEQ.A77

Centralized Services Division • Enforcement Division • Permitting & Compliance Division • Planning, Prevention & Assistance Division • Remediation Division



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 110
Lewistown, Montana 59457



February 10, 2000

Randal P. Sellers, Study Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
ATTN: CENWO-PM-AE
215 North 17th Street
Omaha, NE 68102-4978

Dear Mr. Sellers:

Following are the concerns and recommendations of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge concerning the proposed Fort Peck Fish Hatchery:

The Service strongly recommends the hatchery be constructed with the latest technology and standards to minimize and manage depredation from avian predators. Cormorants, great blue herons, a variety of gulls and terns, and osprey are all common in this immediate area and can be expected to forage in hatchery ponds, unless preliminary hatchery design and engineering addresses this serious problem. The hatchery must be designed to minimize or eliminate avian predation-related conflicts.

Mitigation of the loss of wildlife habitat on the proposed site through acquisition of an area with similar wildlife habitat values and managed for wildlife is recommended. The proposed hatchery site is currently managed for a variety of wildlife and this loss will have substantial impacts to a number of species. Barley fields, managed for wildlife, attract and sustain wintering mallards and Canadian geese, especially during harsh winters when other food resources are unavailable. Ring-necked pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse and Grey partridge frequent the area. Raptors, particularly bald eagles and rough-legged hawks, are attracted to the site due to the abundance of prey species and the availability of large cottonwoods for perch sites. Considerable use by white-tailed deer occurs, especially during the winter months when numbers may exceed three dozen animals during the night when darkness provides additional security from the nearby roadway. Without mitigation of habitat loss some of these deer will undoubtedly end up on agricultural fields west of the site which may result in depredation-related conflicts with private landowners.

We appreciate this opportunity to express our concerns and make recommendations on this important matter. We realize that some of these issues will require a significant effort in planning but we feel it is important to consider consequences, options and trade-offs during this crucial, early planning process. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact me



at the CMR Fort Peck Office phone number: (406) 526-3464; or Fax: (406) 526-3664

Sincerely,



Everett Russell
Refuge Operations Specialist

EFR/eh

cc: CMR Lewistown
Lou Hanebury, Ecological Services, Billings





State Historic Preservation Office





State Historic Preservation Office

Montana Historical Society

1410 8th Avenue • PO Box 201202 • Helena, MT 59620-1202 • (406) 444-7715 • FAX (406) 444-6575

February 1, 2000

CANDACE M GORTON
CORPS OF ENGINEERS OMAHA DISTRICT
215 NORTH 17TH STREET
OMAHA NEBRASKA 68102 4978

RE: Establishment of Fish Hatchery near Fort Peck, Montana.

Dear Candace,

Thank you, for the heads up on the subject project. We need to withhold a determination of No Effect until we receive the upcoming archeological report. Please send us some good photos showing how this may or may not impact on the Fort Peak Multiple Resource Nominated property.

Sincerely

Josef J Warhank
Section 106 Compliance Officer

file: DOD/COE/2000
SHPO # 2000 011309





REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OHAMA DISTRICT
FORT PECK LAKE OFFICE
P.O. BOX 208
FORT PECK, MONTANA 59223-0208

2000052503

GE
cmg 4/9/00
B. Becky

May 23, 2000

Josef J. Warhank
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
225 North Roberts
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mr. Warhank:

Enclosed find Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report and CRABS form for the proposed Fort Peck Fish Hatchery site Fort Peck Lake Project. Subject report is for your review and comment. Please direct any questions to Darin McMurry of my staff at 406/526-3411.

Encls.


Roy O. Snyder
Lake Manager

CONCUR
NO PROPERTIES ON OR ELIGIBLE
FOR NNHP APPEAR LIKELY TO
EXIST WITHIN PROJECT IMPACT AREA
MONTANA SHPO

DATE June 2000 SIGNED Josef J. Warhank



APPENDIX

B

MEETING REGISTRATION



Attendance List

Fort Peck Fish Hatchery
Public Scoping/Information Meeting
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

Meeting Date: January 19th 2000

Meeting Place: Cottonwood Inn

Name & Agency	Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Cory Swans (or Elton) Congressman Rick Hill	518 2 nd St. South Great Falls, MT. 59405	(406)454-1066	corys@mail.house.gov
Ron Ostberg Nemont Telephone	P.O. Box 600 Scobey, MT.	(406)483-5654	rostberg@nemontel.net
Jill Hamilton Glasgow Chamber	Box 832 Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-2222	Chamber@nemontel.net
Brian Milne Interstate Engin	Box 648 Sione, MT. 59270	(406)482-5617	ieinc2@lyrea.net
Chuck Lawson Citizens for Fish Hatchery	387 6 th	(406)228-8213	
Betty Stone Cottonwood Inn	P.O. Box 1240 Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-8213	cwinn@nemontel.net
Gunner Benavente	400 Indian St. W.P., MT. 59201	(406)228-4776	
Manson Bailey, Jr.	Box 743 Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-4776	
Jim M ^c Intyre	Box 626 Glasgow, MT	(406)228-8186	
Smith	907 US Hwy 2 West Glasgow, MT	(406)228-2900	



Attendance List

Fort Peck Fish Hatchery
Public Scoping/Information Meeting
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

Meeting Date: January 19th 2000

Meeting Place: Cottonwood Inn

Name & Agency	Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
(Confidential) Pres(elect) Walleys Unlimited	Box 3 Roy, MT 59471	(406)464-7144	scilstad@midrivers.com
Barbara Lansfer Citizen for Fish Hatchery	837 6 th Ave. So. Glasgow, MT	(406)228-9541	
Greg A. Bades	Box 1 Malta, MT	(406)654-2010	PCCSSGAB@TTC-CMG.NET
James Carver	P.O. Box 11 Malta, MT	(406)654-1054	carveje@TTC-CMC.net
Stan Ozank	Box 671 Glasgow, MT	(406)228-9336	kltz@kltz.com
Glen Sillerud	HC-68 Box 222 Richland, MT.	59260	
Doug Hill	304 4 th St. SE Sione, MT. 59276	(406)482-3845	dhill@stcomanbank.com
Bruce Mimot	307 Klen Glasgow, MT.	(406)228-4614	
Mike Dunge	P.O. Box 191 Ft. Peck, MT. 59223	(406)526-3602	mikels18@nemontel.net
Rep. Sam	130 Bennie St. Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-8578	



Attendance List

Fort Peck Fish Hatchery
Public Scoping/Information Meeting
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

Meeting Date: January 19th 2000

Meeting Place: Cottonwood Inn

Name & Agency	Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Lo (of Fort Peck)	71 Bonnie St. Glasgow, MT	(406)228-2013	
Andy Hicks	82 Bonnie St Glasgow, MT	(406)228-9066	
John Flauson	Malta	(406)654-2650	
Mark Newby	Box 1144 Malta, MT	(406)654-2650	
Duane Julien	101 Aberdeen Glasgow, MT	(406)228-2869	
Lary Mires	17 Robertson Ct. Glasgow, MT	(406)228-8033	
Steve Harada	211 E. Indian St. Wolf Point, MT	(406)653-1463	
Bill Dasinger	530 Eureka St. Wolf Point, MT	(406) 653-1952	
Tod Kasten	730 Hillside Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-4144	
Bill Nicol	HCR 272-3005 Glasgow, MT	(406)228-4068	



Attendance List

Fort Peck Fish Hatchery
Public Scoping/Information Meeting
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

Meeting Date: January 19th 2000

Meeting Place: Cottonwood Inn

Name & Agency	Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Myron Gartner	Box 607 Glasgow, MT	(406)228-4753	
Mary Skordinsky	RT 1-4775 Glasgow, MT	(406)228-3761	Mskordin@mt.blm.gov
Craig Laison	619 Listerud St. Wolf Point, MT	(406)653-2216	
Jeff Haywood	109 Sec St. So. Glasgow, MT	(406)228-4541	
Bill H Borge	Glasgow	(406)228-3517	
Mike Ruggles	631 10 th St. Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-8575	2mfwfp@nemontel.net
Mike Corey	Box 282 Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-2763	
James Rector	Box 1360 Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-4385	
Skip Erickson	Box 351 Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-9356	



Attendance List

Fort Peck Fish Hatchery
Public Scoping/Information Meeting
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

Meeting Date: January 19th 2000

Meeting Place: Cottonwood Inn

Name & Agency	Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Boone A. Whitmer, IPIC	872	(406)	
Bill Bolton	Box 891, Mile City, Mt	(406)732-1928	
Emitt Northrup	212 Skylark rd. Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-2878	teachine@nemontel.net
Joe Herbold	Box 239 Jordan, Mt 59337	(406)557-2383	walleye@midriver.com
Leonard B.	49 Riverside Dr. Glasgow, MT.	(406)367-5500	
Mike Wilson	Box 1 Jordan, MT 59337	(406)557-2720	
Kirk Miller	Box 118 Fort Peck, MT 59223	(406)	
Sam Waters	1015 6 th Ave N Glasgow, MT.	(406)228-4545	



Tom Newton	P.O. Box 865 Glasgow, MT 59230	(406)228-2317	
Curt Brayko	HCR 272-3066 Glasgow, MT.	(406)362-9351	

Attendance List

Fort Peck Fish Hatchery
Public Scoping/Information Meeting
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

Meeting Date: January 19th 2000

Meeting Place: Cottonwood Inn

Name & Agency	Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Glen K. Finner US FWS	PO Box 254 Ft. Peck, MT 59223	(406)526-3586	



APPENDIX

C

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

